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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 06057

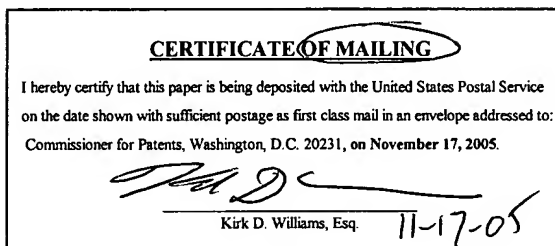IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. 6,961,808 B1

Confirmation No. 4503

Issued: November 1, 2005

Name of Patentee: Oren et al.

Patent Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR IMPLEMENTING AND USING
MULTIPLE VIRTUAL PORTIONS OF
PHYSICAL ASSOCIATIVE MEMORIES

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF
PATENT FOR PATENT OFFICE MISTAKE (37 C.F.R. § 1.322)

Attn: Certificate of Correction Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

It is requested that a Certificate of Correction be issued to correct Office mistakes found the above-identified patent. Attached hereto is a Certificate of Correction which indicates the requested correction. For your convenience, also attached are copies of selected pages (a) from the issued patent with errors highlighted, and (b) from Amendment A filed September 20, 2004, with the correct text/instructions.

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NOV 2 5 2005

In re US Patent No. 6,961,808

It is believed that there is no charge for this request because applicant or applicants were not responsible for such error, as will be apparent upon a comparison of the issued patent with the application as filed or amended. However, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee that may be required to Deposit Account No. 501430.

Respectfully submitted,
The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams

Date: November 17, 2005

By _____ 11-17-2005

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,961,808 B1

DATED : November 1, 2005

INVENTOR(S) : Oren et al.

It is certified that error(s) appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Col. 6, line 58, replace "apiece" with -- a piece --

NOV 2 5 2005

"subset" is used to indicate a group of all, less than all, or none of the elements of a set. Moreover, the term "or" is used herein to identify an alternative selection of one or more, including all, of the conjunctive items.

Methods and apparatus are disclosed for implementing and using multiple virtual portions of one or more physical associative memories, such as, but not limited to a content-addressable memories. In one embodiment, an associative memory is programmed with multiple sets of entries, each of the multiple sets of entries including a different one of multiple unique decoder fields. A piece of information is received including a data item. In one embodiment, a decoder field is identified, such as from the piece of information or from another source. The decoder field and the data item are typically included in a lookup word used to perform a lookup operation in the associated memory, with the decoder field identifying which of the multiple sets of entries to search based on the data item and/or other data. In one embodiment, a nested condition associated with the data item is identified, and in response, a predefined set of decoder fields are identified and multiple lookup words are generated based on these decoder fields and the data item and/or other data. In one embodiment, a lookup indicator is forwarded from the device generating the multiple lookup words (or other device) to a consumer of the results for understanding the context of the results generated from the associative memory lookup operations performed on the generated multiple lookup words. In one embodiment, multiple levels of decoder fields are used to identify multiple subsets of entries within one or more of the multiple sets of entries.

One embodiment programs an associative memory with a plurality of sets of entries, each of the plurality of sets of entries associated with a different one of a plurality of unique decoder fields, and each entry within a particular one of the plurality of sets of entries including a same one of the plurality of unique decoder fields. A piece of information including a data item and a decoder value is received. A first lookup word including the data item and the decoder value is derived. A lookup operation is performed on the associative memory using the first lookup word to generate a first lookup result.

In one embodiment, a first set of the plurality of sets of entries includes a different number of entries than a second set of the plurality of sets of entries. In one embodiment, the decoder value includes a set value and a subset value. One embodiment also receives a second piece of information including a data item and a nested condition indication, identifies the nested condition, and generates a plurality of lookup words in response to said identifying, each of the plurality of lookup words including the data item and one of a plurality of predetermined decoder values.

One embodiment programs an associative memory with a plurality of sets of entries, each of the plurality of sets of entries including a different one of a plurality of unique decoder fields. A piece of information including a data item is received. A nested condition associated with the data item is identified. In response to said identifying the nested condition, a plurality of lookup words with a predefined set of decoder fields of the plurality of unique decoder fields are generated.

In one embodiment, the piece of information includes a nested condition indication. In one embodiment, the piece of information does not include a nested condition indication. In one embodiment, at least two of the plurality of sets of entries have a different number of entries. In one embodiment, each of the plurality of sets of entries has at least two

entries. One embodiment forwards a lookup indication to a receiver. In one embodiment, the lookup indicator indicates the presence or absence of the nested condition. In one embodiment, the lookup indicator indicates a result context. One embodiment forwards the plurality of lookup words to an associative memory. In one embodiment, the associative memory includes a ternary or binary content-addressable memory. One embodiment performs a lookup operation on each of the plurality of lookup words to generate a plurality of lookup results. One embodiment compares a first lookup result of the plurality of lookup results with a second lookup result of the plurality of lookup results to identify whether to perform processing based on the first or second lookup result.

One embodiment performs for each particular one of a plurality of associative memory spaces: determining a size for said particular one of the plurality of associative memory spaces; allocating at least the size number of entries for said particular one of the plurality of associative memory spaces; assigning a unique decoder field to said particular one of the plurality of associative memory spaces; and adding said at least said size number of entries in the associative memory, wherein each of said at least said size number of entries includes the unique decoder field. In one embodiment, at least two of the plurality of associative memory spaces have a different number of said allocated entries.

One embodiment includes: a lookup word generator for receiving a data item and for generating a plurality of lookup words, each of the plurality of lookup words including the data item and a different one of a plurality of unique decoder fields; and an associated memory, coupled to the lookup word generator, for performing a lookup operation of each of the plurality of lookup word and to produce a plurality of associative memory results.

One embodiment includes a memory, coupled to the associative memory, to receive the plurality of associative memory results and to generate a plurality of memory lookup results. One embodiment includes a receiver to receive the plurality of memory lookup results; and wherein the lookup word generator further communicates a lookup indication to the receiver. One embodiment includes a receiver to receive the plurality of associative memory results. In one embodiment, the lookup word generator further communicates a lookup indication to the receiver. In one embodiment, the receiver compares a first associative memory result of the plurality of associative memory results with a second associative memory result of the plurality of associative memory results. In one embodiment, a result of said comparison of the first and second associative memory results determines the first associative memory result is to be processed.
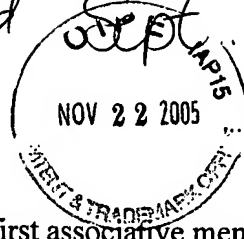
One embodiment includes means for programming an associative memory with a plurality of sets of entries, each of the plurality of set of entries including a different one of a plurality of unique decoder fields; means for receiving a piece of information including a data item; means for identifying a nested condition associated with the data item; and means for generating in a plurality of lookup words with a predefined set of decoder fields of the plurality of unique decoder fields.

a piece

In one embodiment, the piece of information includes a nested condition indication. One embodiment includes means for forwarding a lookup indication to a receiver. In one embodiment, the lookup indicator indicates the presence or absence of the nested condition. One embodiment

receiver. In one embodiment, the receiver compares a first associative memory result of the plurality of associative memory results with a second associative memory result of the plurality of associative memory results. In one embodiment, a result of said comparison of the first and second associative memory results determines the first associative memory result is to be processed.

One embodiment includes means for programming an associative memory with a plurality of sets of entries, each of the plurality of set of entries including a different one of a plurality of unique decoder fields; means for receiving a piece of information including a data item; means for identifying a nested condition associated with the data item; and means for generating in a plurality of lookup words with a predefined set of decoder fields of the plurality of unique decoder fields.

In one embodiment, the piece of information includes a nested condition indication. One embodiment includes means for forwarding a lookup indication to a receiver. In one embodiment, the lookup indicator indicates the presence or absence of the nested condition. One embodiment includes associative memory means for receiving the plurality of lookup words and for generating a plurality of lookup results.